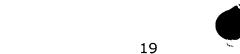
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METHOD FOR DETERMINING A MOTION VECTOR FOR A VIDEO SIGNAL Abstract of the Disclosure

A method according to the invention includes the steps of determining a signature metric (601) for a portion of a first image (403). A second image (401) is searched (605) for at least one relative match of the signature metric, yielding one or more candidate regions. In a pixel domain, the one or more candidate regions are searched (607) for the portion of the first image to obtain a motion vector for the first image (403). The second image (401) is searched in a search window (407) that is smaller than the area of the second image (401).